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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

MA, JOHNNY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/451,870	Applicant(s) ITO ET AL.	
	Examiner Johnny Ma	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16-19 and 21-96 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-11 and 23-96 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-14, 16-19, 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/24/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-14, 16-19, 21 and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 12-14, 16-19, and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (US 6,567,427 B1) in further view of Rajan (US 2001/0000962 A1), Deniau et al. (US 2001/0052856 A1), Goldschmidt Iki et al. (US 6,601,103 B1), and Banker et al. (US 5,317,391).

As to claim 12, note the Suzuki et al. reference discloses an image signal multiplexing apparatus and methods, image signal demultiplexing apparatus and methods, and transmission media. The claimed "a receiver, arranged to receive a bitstream" is met by user terminal (Suzuki 14:40-46) that receives a multiplexed bitstream (Suzuki 15:46-51). The claimed "wherein the bit stream is multiplexed image data encoded by MPEG 4, image data and/or sound data encoded by another coding format" is met by the disclosed multiplexed bitstream FS (Suzuki 14:16-20) noting "the MPEG4 scheme is employed for an encoding and decoding scheme" (Suzuki 13:63-67) and "[e]ach of the decoders 207-1 to 207-n decodes an associated bitstream based on a predetermined decoding method corresponding to the encoding, and outputs a video or audio

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signal to the reconstruction circuit 209 (column 16, lines 21-24), the format of the bitstream may be MPEG2 video or the like (column 20, lines 43-50). Thus the Suzuki et al. reference discloses a multiplexed bit stream comprising MPEG 4 and MPEG 2 bit streams, wherein it is inherent that such data be received for decoding. The claimed “a first decoder, arranged to decode the image data encoded by MPEG 4” is met by demultiplexer circuit 205, syntax analysis circuit 206/208 and decoders as illustrated in Figure 1, wherein description is made assuming the MPEG4 scheme is employed for an encoding and decoding scheme (column 13, lines 62-67). The claimed “a second decoder, arranged to decode the image data and/or sound data encoded by the other coding scheme” is met by “[e]ach of the decoders 207-1 to 207-n decodes an associated bitstream based on a predetermined decoding method corresponding to the encoding, and outputs a video or audio signal to the reconstruction circuit 209 (column 16, lines 21-24) and “[t]he syntax analysis circuit 206 identifies the type and the number of required decoders to supply required decoders 207-1 to 207-n with the respective bitstreams ES1-Esn (column 16, lines 3-6) wherein the format of the bitstream may be MPEG2 video or the like (column 20, lines 43-50). The claimed “a receiver, arranged to receive image data encoded by MPEG 4, and image data and/or sound data encoded by another coding format” is met by the decoding of MPEG 4 and MPEG-2 data as discussed above. However, the Suzuki et al. reference does not specifically disclose the use of system data (additional data as defined in Applicant’s specification) and scene description data. Now note the Rajan reference that discloses the claimed “system data” wherein “[t]he coded elementary content streams (comprising video, audio, graphics, text [system data], etc.) are routed to their respective decoders according to the information contained in the received descriptors” and BIFS streams (Rajan [0051]). The claimed “a third decoder, arranged

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to decode at least scene description data [...]” is met by scene decoder 122 as illustrated in Figure 1 (Rajan). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Suzuki et al. A/V bit streams with the Rajan bit streams including system data and a scene description data decoder for the purpose of providing an enriched presentation to the user wherein messages and text may also be displayed to a system user and a method for presenting the MPEG-4 presentation according to user defined and provider defined layout parameters to the user. Further note, that the Suzuki et al. and Rajan combination discloses a multiplexed bit stream including system data and a corresponding decoder as well as a scene description decoder, as discussed above. However, the Suzuki et al. and Rajan reference does not specifically teach a character generator. Now note the Deniau et al. reference that discloses a receiver in a cyclic packet data transmission system. The claimed “a character generator, arranged to generate character data” is met by the disclosed character generator for generating a video signal for display (Deniau [0042]). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Suzuki et al. and Rajan combination teaching a scene description decoder with the Deniau et al. character generator for the purpose of providing a means for displaying the system data while conserving the use of bandwidth, i.e. alleviating the need to transfer the full image of the text. Further note, the Deniau et al. reference discloses “[a] character generator 15 allows the generation of command or graphics menus relating to the parameters of the decoder or to a particular application. The video signal generated by this character generator is multiplexed with one of the video signals coming from the video decoder 17 or from the Teletext decoder 18 towards a first TV peripheral socket

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(SCART socket) linked to a television 22 or a second TV peripheral socket lined to a video recorder 21” (Deniau [0042]). Note the claimed “a third decoder, arranged to decode at least scene description data [...] and character command data from the system data” is met by the Suzuki, Rajan, and Deniau combination as discussed above. Note the Suzuki and Rajan combination teaches that the display of programming in accordance with scene description data and user specified parameters (Rajan [0063]). However, the Suzuki, Rajan, and Deniau combination is silent as to decoding program ID data. Now note the Goldschmidt Iki et al. reference that discloses a method and apparatus for providing personalized supplemental programming. The claimed “decoding program ID data” is met by the evaluation of primary programming information (program ID data) from various sources such as a electronic program guide (EPG) for matches to predetermined program ID data for providing supplements to the primary programming (Goldschmidt 3:18-48). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Suzuki, Rajan, and Deniau third decoder, arranged to decode at least scene description data and character command data from the system data wherein scene description data may be modified by a user with the Goldschmidt Iki et al. decoding of program ID data for the purpose of determining whether the primary programming should be supplemented, by user customized settings of the program display layout. However, the Suzuki et al., Rajan, and Deniau et al. combination does not specifically disclose “instructed by the character command using internal character data, wherein the character command data instructs the generation of the character data and a layout of a character represented by the generated character data.” Now note the Banker et al. reference that discloses a method and apparatus for providing message

information to subscribers in a cable television system. The claimed “instructed by the character command using internal character data, wherein the character command data instructs the generation of the character data and a layout of a character represented by the generated character data” is met by “[t]he message definition may include data which instructs microprocessor 410 to generate an on-screen message alert. If such data is included in the message definition transaction, an on-screen message alert such as that in FIG. 7 will overlay the video... Preferably, the character codes and layout of the on-screen message alert are stored in ROM 420 of microprocessor 410. The message definition transaction instructs microprocessor 410 [character generator] to supply the appropriate character codes and layout information to on-screen display control 406 [for display]” (Banker 9:15-26). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Suzuki et al., Rajan, Deniau et al., and Goldschmidt Iki et al. combination teaching a character generator for generating character data in the received system data with the Banker et al. character generator comprising internal character data and a command for instructing the generation of the character data and a layout of a character represented by the generated character data for the purpose of providing a means for the character generator to process the system data for proper display and allow the operator to customize the manner in which the characters are displayed via a layout. The claimed “a determiner, arranged to determine whether a program ID indicated by the program ID data and a registered program ID are coincident or not” is met by the Suzuki, Rajan, Deniau et al., and Goldschmidt Iki et al. combination as discussed above wherein program ID’s are compared to determine whether scene description data should be supplemented with user specified settings. However, the Suzuki reference is

silent as to the use of a setter. The Rajan reference discloses a terminal for composing and presenting MPEG-4 video programs wherein "...the scene description information is coded into a binary format known as BIFS (Binary Format for Scene). This BIFS data is packetized and multiplexed at a transmission site, such as a cable and or satellite television headend, or a server in a computer network, before being sent over a communication channel to a terminal 100" (Rajan [0042]). The claimed "setter, arranged to set a user layout of images represented by a plurality of image data, which are decoded by said first and second decoders, and the character represented by the generated character data" is met by "[t]he terminal manager 110 passes the user input events to the composition engine 120 for appropriate handling. For example, a user may enter commands to reposition or change the attributes of certain objects within the scene graph" (Rajan [0068]) wherein the composition engine maintains and updates a scene graph of the current objects for display (Rajan [0078]) including a scene graph for reproduction of objects for display (Rajan [0078]). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify (if necessary) the Suzuki et al., Rajan, Deniau et al., Goldschmidt Iki et al. and Banker et al. combination MPEG 4 presentation with the Rajan setter for the purpose of allowing a user to customize display of programming and user interactivity with such programming wherein the MPEG-4 communication standard allows a user to interact with video and audio objects within a scene, whether they are from conventional sources, such as moving video, or from synthetic (computer generated) sources (Rajan [0004]). The claimed "in accordance with the program ID and coding format of the received image data when said determiner determines that the program ID and the registered program ID are coincident" is met by the Suzuki et al., Rajan, Deniau et al.,

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Goldschmidt Iki et al., and Banker et al. combination wherein objects may be encoded in various formats requiring different decoding means as set forth above and a determiner determines whether the program ID's match and subsequently supplements the primary programming if a match is found. The claimed "a synthesizer, arranged to synthesize the plurality of image data and/or sound data decoded by said first and second decoders and the generated character data, in accordance with the scene description data and the user layout so as to reconstruct the scene when said determiner determines that the program ID and the registered program ID are coincident" is met by the Suzuki et al., Rajan, Deniau et al., and Goldschmidt Iki et al. combination as discussed above wherein "reconstruction circuit 209 includes a synthesizer circuit 252 such that an image signal produced by the synthesizer circuit 252 is supplied to a display 251 for display (column 16, lines 42-50) wherein elementary streams comprise encoded audio and video streams (column 13, lines 56-59) and wherein bit streams include audio, video, and system data, synthesized in accordance with user specified layouts and the received scene description data (Rajan [0063]) in response to a match of the program ID's.

As to claim 13, the claimed "wherein said second decoder decodes image data and/or sound data encoded by MPEG 2," please see rejection of claim 1 wherein the format of the bitstream may be MPEG2 video or the like (column 20, lines 43-50).

As to claim 14, the claimed "further comprising a reproducer arranged to reproduce the image data and/or sound data synthesized by said synthesizer" is met by "reconstruction circuit 209 includes a synthesizer circuit 252 such that an image signal produced by the synthesizer circuit 252 is supplied to a display 251 for display (column 16, lines 42-50) wherein elementary streams comprise encoded audio and video streams (column 13, lines 56-59).

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As to claim 16, the claimed “further comprising a memory for storing the user layout set by said setter” is met by that discussed in the rejection of claim 12 wherein user modifies a scene graph that is maintained on a terminal for presentation of programming, the storing in memory of such information is inherent to the maintaining of the scene graph for composition purposes. The claimed “in correspondence with information related to a broadcast program received by said receiver” is also met by that discussed in the rejection of claim 12 wherein the stored scene graph information corresponds to broadcasted video programming as evidenced by program transmission from a cable and or satellite television headend (Rajan [0042]).

As to claims 17-19 and 21, please see the rejections of claims 12-14 and 16 respectively.

As to claim 22, please see rejection of claim 12. Also note the Suzuki et al. reference discloses an image signal multiplexing apparatus and methods, image signal demultiplexing apparatus and methods, and transmission media wherein the disclosed processing may be implemented in software or hardware (column 22, lines 15-24).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnny Ma whose telephone number is (571) 272-7351. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jm


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